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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,766	05/31/2002	Jutta Glock	PH/5-31142A	2715

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EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/070,766	GLOCK, JUTTA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sabiha Qazi	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Final Office Action

Acknowledgement is made of the response filed on June 4, 2004. Amendments are entered. Rejection under 112 is withdrawn because arguments are found persuasive. Arguments regarding 103 rejections were fully considered but are not found persuasive therefore; rejection is maintained for the same reasons as set forth in our previous office action.

Claims 1-12 are pending. No claim is allowed at the present time. Herbicides safeners increase the tolerance of crop plants to herbicides. The safening effect increases in the margin of tolerance of the herbicides and allows for improved control of problem weeds with herbicides-safener combination. Several herbicide, cause atleast some crop injury when used at higher dose levels. Herbicides safeners are also called as antagonists, antidotes and protectants.

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP00/08661, filed on 09/05/2000, and claims priority of Swiss application 164399, filed on 09/07/1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Patent WO 98/13361 (TOBLER et al.) and the *Physiology of Herbicide Action* (DEVINE et al.) and US Patent 6,221,810 (KRUGER et al.) reference. The references cited teach the combination of the herbicides and safeners which embraces presently claimed invention.

The TOBLER et al. reference teaches the antidotes in antidotal composition for the control of grasses and weeds, especially of maize, cereals, and soybeans. The reference teaches the combinations of safeners (the antidotes) of formula I with the herbicides of formulas II-VI in various ratios. See paragraphs 2-7 on page 46. Furthermore, the reference teaches that depending

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on the type of the active ingredients of formulas II-VI to be formulated, various surfactants having various surface active compounds may be selected. See the entire document, especially claims, examples, and the cited sections above.

The DEVINE et al. reference teaches the three main safeners groups and their different effects. The mood of action of safeners and broad variety of possible safener-herbicide interactions are summarized into Figure 17.9 on page 381. See the entire document, especially claims, examples, and Section 17.4 on page 376.

KRUGER reference teaches 3-hydroxyl-4-aryl-5-oxo-pyrazoline derivatives as herbicides. Furthermore, it teaches that in combating weeds, these herbicides, insecticides, acaricides, nematocides, plant nutrients etc can also be used as mixtures with known herbicides. See the entire document especially compounds of formula (I) in col 1; 1lines 1-67 in col. 33; lines 1-1-67 in col. 34; lines 1-31-in col. 35; lines 24-65 in col. 36; examples and claims.

Instant invention is drawn to a selectively herbicidal composition of:

- a) a herbicidally effective amount of 4-aryl-5-oxopyrazoline of formula I (elected species—mefenpyr-ethyl), and
- b) a safener of formula IIa to IIe (elected IIa).

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming a broader scope of the combination of safener and the herbicides.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to prepare additional beneficial compositions for controlling weeds in crops of useful plants because the prior art teaches the combination of safener and herbicides because, prior art teaches that herbicides when applied alone, would either may not be sufficiently active on the weeds at lower

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dose levels, or would cause some crop injury at higher dose levels required for satisfactory weed control. (see 2nd para in section 17.4 on page 376 of DEVINE et al.).

Since the compounds are known which are used as herbicides and safeners there is enough motivation provided by the prior art to combine a known herbicide with a known safener to prepare the composition for control of weeds. For the reasons cited above presently claimed invention would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

It has been established single species is seldom, if ever, sufficient to support a generic claim. In re Shokal, 242 F.2d 771, 113 U.S.P.Q. 283, 285 (C.C.P.A. 1957). See also, In re Grimme, 274 F.2d 949, ___, 124 U.S.P.Q. 499, 501 (C.C.P.A. 1960) (the naming of a member of a genus or subgenus is not a proper basis for claiming the whole group).

Objective evidence of nonobviousness must be commensurate in scope with the scope of the claims. In re Tiffin, 171 USPQ 294. A showing limited to a single species can hardly be considered probative of the invention's nonobviousness in view of the breadth of the claims.

Specification discloses only few safeners in combination with herbicides (on page 29, in Table B1). Since safeners as claimed have different structures (IIa to IIe), it is not possible to predict that all safeners when used with 4-aryl-5-oxopyrazoline of formula I will have the same safening effect. As prior art teaches, the safening effect is very specific and changes with the structure of the compound and the herbicide used.

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In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Qazi whose telephone number is (571) 272-0622. The examiner can normally be reached on any business day.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz can be reached on (571) 272-0887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sunday, 22 August, 2004



SABIHA QAZI, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER